



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding NASBE Award Nominations

The State Board of Education has been asked by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) to submit nominations for the 2008 Policy Leader of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Friend of Education Award.

The communication from NASBE is attached. Please note that nominations for the awards are due March 31, 2008.

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MEMO

TO: NASBE State Board Chairs, Members, and Executive Directors
FROM: Marsha McMullin, Director of Special Projects
RE: **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – NASBE 2008 AWARDS**
DATE: January 7, 2008

AWARDS NOMINATIONS

As you know, each year the National Association of State Boards of Education presents three awards to people who have distinguished themselves in the field of education. The awards will be presented at our 50th Anniversary Gala and Annual Conference in Arlington, Virginia in October 2008. *Nominations forms* for these three prestigious awards are being mailed to your state board chairman and executive director.

The ***Policy Leader of the Year Award*** provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions made by policymakers and education leaders who have had an impact on education at a **national** level. This award underscores the vital role that creative, committed, and enduring leadership plays in improving and sustaining our education system. *For this award, we seek to consider nominees (other than members of state boards of education) who have specifically had an impact on education policy and the education system, either in their role as national policymakers and administrators or as citizens who have contributed to the improvement of education through such venues as national commissions, task forces, or other significant boards and organizations.* Past winners include Senator Johnny Isakson, Congressman Ralph Regula, Education Secretary Richard Riley, several governors, Congressman Bill Goodling, former First Lady Barbara Bush, author Jonathan Kozol, Jim Henson, and last year's winner, former Massachusetts' Commissioner of Education David Driscoll.

The ***Distinguished Service Award*** is presented to recognize up to three state board members for exceptional service and leadership rendered on behalf of education. Recipients exemplify personal and professional dedication to improving public education in their states. *For this award, we seek nominees who are current or recently retired state board members whose past or current efforts on behalf of education are deemed to be of outstanding benefit to the quality of American education and the shaping of its future.*

The ***Friend of Education Award*** is given to recognize citizens or organizations whose primary work may be outside the realm of education policy and education systems, but whose contributions to education are significant and enduring. *For this award, we are looking for non-traditional nominees, such as individuals from the fields of business, the arts, entertainment or sports.* Previous winners include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Milken Foundation, Security Benefit of Topeka, Kansas, Selby Wellman, James Orr, Chad Wick, and Robert Marshall.

All members in good standing of NASBE are encouraged to submit nominations for review by the Award Selection Committees. Nominations may come from a state board or from an individual member of a board. It is important that the winners of these prestigious awards be present to accept them at the Annual Conference in the Nation's Capital so we ask that you carefully consider who you would like to nominate and be willing to actively encourage your nominee to attend if he or she is chosen. Please complete and mail or fax the appropriate nomination form, a letter of endorsement, and the completed questions to NASBE, 277 S. Washington Street, Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22314, attention: Marsha McMullin. *The deadline is March 31, 2008.* No other materials are needed, as only the Nomination Form, endorsement letter, and questions will be submitted for review. These forms have been provided to your State Board Chair and Executive Director; feel free to contact me for more forms, if needed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (marsham@nasbe.org) or 703/684-4000, ext. 1116, if you have any questions regarding either the Board of Directors or Awards nominations process. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at upcoming NASBE meetings and conferences.